(v) Partnership for excellence programme for improving Plant Load Factor (PLF) for poorly performing thermal power stations in the country.

(vi) Creation of National Grid to transmit power across various regions of the country.

(d) Electricity Act 2003 provides for setting up of Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum by every distribution licensee in their respective areas of operation. The Act also provides for constitution of the Ombudsman by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs). The main function of the Ombudsman is to look into the non-redressal of grievances by the Grievance Redressal Forums.

Status of power projects in Karnataka

1446. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in Karnataka pending for last five years;

(b) the details of proposals received from Government of Karnataka; and

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning new power projects in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, there is no requirement of license for thermal generation. However, the schemes for setting up hydro generating stations by any generating company involving an estimated capital expenditure exceeding the prescribed limit are required to be submitted for concurrence of Central Electricity Authority.

Detailed Projects Report (DPR) of two hydro electric projects *i.e.* Mahadayi (320 MW) and Gundia (400 MW) were received in Central Electricity Authority for concurrence in the last five years. Out of these DPR of Mahadayi HEP was returned in Aug., 2002 for tying up of essential inputs/clearances etc. The response of the State Utility is still awaited. The DPR of other project *i.e.* Gundia has been received recently on 12.7.2006.